

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 3-4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Introduction

Claims 1-11 are pending, of which claims 1, 9 and 10 are independent.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) as the drawings fail to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner asserts “at least one of the voltage detection portion, the memory portion and the forced discharge portion is integrated with the equipment circuit” recited in Claim 11 is not shown in the drawings. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made to Fig. 4 overcome this objection. No new matter has been entered.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwazono et al. (USP 6,714,882), Sato et al. (USP 6,008,626) and further in view of Thandiwe et al. (USP 6,286,713). Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwazono et al., Sato et al. and Thandiwe et al. and further in view of Farley et al. (USP 5,767,659). Further, Claims 7 and 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwazono et al., Sato et al. and Thandiwe et al., and further in view of Yoshida et al. (US Publication Number 2005/0106455). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Regarding independent claims 1, 9 and 10, Applicants submit that Iwazono and Sato merely disclose a system for forcibly discharging the lithium secondary battery when the battery is in a high voltage and under a high ambient temperature. Neither Iwazono nor Sato discloses

“a notification portion” in connection with the forcibly discharge portion, as recited claims 1, 9 and 10. The Examiner asserts that Thandiwe discloses the notification portion as recited claims 1, 9 and 10. However, Thandiwe merely discloses “[w]hen fault conditions arise, it is often desirable to notify either the user or the host device that a fault has occurred,” and “the means of notification could be visual, audio, digital, etc. (see, column 4, line 14-21 of Thandiwe). In other words, the notification portion of Thandiwe does not notify that the battery is **being forcibly discharged**.”

In addition, in Thandiwe, when fault conditions are detected, the transistor 102 or the transistor 106 having the fuses 104 or 105 disconnect the battery from the circuit (see, column 3, line 35 to column 4, line 13 of Thandiwe). Accordingly, in Thandiwe, the forcibly discharge portion does not electrify the notification portion (i.e. the battery does not supply power to the notification portion), as recited in claims 1, 9 and 10.

As each and every element must be disclosed or suggested in the cited prior art references in order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness (see, M.P.E.P. § 2143.03), and, at a minimum, the combination of Iwazono, Sato and Thandiwe fails to disclose or suggest the above recited limitations, it is clear that the combination of Iwazono, Sato and Thandiwe does not render claims 1, 9 and 10 obvious.

Applicants further submit that according to the claimed subject matter, the following effects can be obtained: The claimed power supply system can not only avoid an abnormality by simply carrying out forced discharge but also make a user to determine whether the battery after forced discharge is out of order or not. Therefore, the user can avoid unnecessary replacement of the batteries. Furthermore, since the user notices the forced discharge, the user can move the portable equipment from the undesirable environment for batteries to other places. By having

been notified that the forced discharge occurred in the specific environments, the user can learn the undesirable environment for the battery and not leave the portable equipment in such environment again, which would result in extending the lifetime of the battery (see, page 7, line 16-24 of the present application). None of the cited references achieves the results or effects of the present application. As such, it would not have been obvious to combine Iwazono, Sato and Thandiwe to arrive at the subject matter of claims 1, 9 and 10.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 9 and 10. Since claims 2, 4-5 and 11 depend upon either claim 1 or claim 10, these claims are also patentable over the cited prior references. *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (A dependent claim is non-obvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims).

Regarding dependent claims 3 and 6-8, since the combination of Iwazono, Sato and Thandiwe fails to disclose or suggest the above discussed limitations of their base claim 1, it is clear that the combination of Iwazono, Sato, Thandiwe and Farley or Yoshida does not render claims 3 and 6-8 obvious. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 3 and 6-8.

CONCLUSION

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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